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April 22, 2020

Secretary Jerry Oleksiak
Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
1700 Labor and Industry Building
Harrisburg, Pa. 17121

RE: Virtual Meeting with House Northwest Delegation

Dear Secretary Oleksiak:

As chairman of the House Democratic Northwest Delegation, I am writing today to request an urgent, virtual meeting with my delegation to allow Members to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding the department's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic to date.

Our district offices, which stretch from State College to Johnstown and north to Erie, are bearing the brunt of your department's shortcomings. We have heard from hundreds of constituents who are stuck in the system – waiting weeks to receive a PIN or even a financial determination letter for unemployment compensation benefits.

While I understand the department has faced an unprecedented number of unemployment compensation claims since mid-March, it has been slow to ramp up staffing and technology needs to adequately meet this demand. Taxpayers in Pennsylvania are suffering and they deserve answers. They cannot afford to wait any longer for vital financial resources.

As members of the General Assembly, we need complete transparency in these matters if we are to help and protect our constituents. This is what we were elected to do. I look forward to working with your office to schedule this meeting in the very near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Burns".

Frank Burns
72nd Legislative District

Cc: Neil Cashman, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs (via e-mail)